



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA

Keeping the Spirit Alive

April 2016



Indoor commemorations attract larger numbers

The committee decision to hold all battle commemorations indoors at the RARA clubrooms in Linden Park is seeing increased numbers of people attending.

Reasons for the change from events being held on the Pathway of Honour adjacent to Government House in Adelaide include the likelihood of inclement weather, the difficulty for those with a walking disability to reach the venue, the disadvantage of travelling back to the club for refreshments and the work involved in setting up the outdoor venues.

For the commemoration services for the 48th anniversary of Hat Dich on February 19 and for the 48th anniversary of Bien Hoa on March 1 the hall was filled and guests were able to hear the speakers more clearly than outdoors. Reports on other pages.

Left: Craig Cornell, 1st Field Squadron, and his wife, Carol, with their grandson, Sam March, 3 at the Bien Hoa commemoration.

Veterans welcome to walk the Walk on first occasion

Members of the veteran community are welcome to attend the opening of the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk at 12.30pm on Saturday 23 April 2016 at the South Australian National War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide.

The ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk is South Australia's flagship project to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC.

The Memorial Walk seeks to highlight a century of service by Australian defence personnel, to acknowledge the sacrifice of all Australians who have been affected by war, and to pay homage to the more than 102,000 service men and women who have given their lives in conflict.

The Memorial Walk's design is based on three pillars around the theme of "a Memorial for all, not a few":

- Remembrance, symbolised by the South Australian National War Memorial
- Service, symbolised by the Torrens Parade Ground from where many have deployed
- Loyalty, symbolised by Government House



Minister Hamilton-Smith with Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO., Chairman of the Veterans Advisory Council

A \$10 million project funded by the Commonwealth Government through donations to the ANZAC Public Fund (\$5 million), the Government of SA (\$3 million), and the Adelaide City Council (\$2 million), the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk will be a lasting reminder of the human cost of war.

Port Powers players and supporters are expected to walk along the Memorial Walk before the clash with Geelong.

Artist's impression of the Interpretative Wall looking south.



Arrangements for ANZAC Day on page 5

Our peacekeepers in Somalia – 1993

Most articles we read on our military history tend to be directed to the first and second World Wars, as well as Korea, Malaya-Borneo, Vietnam, Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. However, there are other peacekeeping deployments which need to be brought to the fore. One such deployment occurred on 15 January 1993 in Somalia.

The United Nations requested Australian Government assistance, with the use of defence personnel in the distribution of humanitarian aid and in the restoration of order in Somalia where thousands faced death from starvation.

The operation would be named "Solace". The United Nations name given to the international force would be "UNOSOM" - United Nations Operations in Somalia - and the Australian troops would be part of 'UNITAF' - Unified Task Force.

The Battalion Group selected were mainly troops from 1 RAR, some 600 officers and soldiers plus another 52 from 2/4RAR, SASR, a total of 937 Australian troops to take part in this operation.

The RAN's HMAS Tobruk and HMAS Jervis Bay were assigned to transport troops, APCs, heavy equipment and vehicles from Townsville to Mogadishu. The Tobruk would remain in Somali waters as a command ship, providing communications and logistic support to ground troops.

Lt Col **David Hurley**, CO of 1 RAR, and his men were allocated an area of operation at Baidoa, nicknamed the "City of Death". Somalis faced mass starvation because of the breakdown of law and order. The Battalion group was to assist in ensuring the desperately-needed aid reached the starving people in the 17,000 square kilometre Baidoa sector in southwest Somalia.

Lt Col Hurley had a four-part plan, rotating his rifle companies every seven to 10 days, protecting the airfield, providing security to the township, patrolling and escorting aid vehicles and, lastly, mobile counter ambush patrols at night. To implement and maintain his plan, Lt Col Hurley needed to be sure of the loyalty of the locals and to be able to counteract bands of roving gunmen.

He would give a platoon commander a section of APCs and his platoon would then be responsible for an area of 25 to 30 km square. That platoon may have convoy duties, but for a week would also have their own area of responsibility and have the resources to perform the task. Where necessary, the troops on APCs or patrolling, if fired on would respond in kind, which happened on more than one occasion.

The Australian troops improved the quality of life for the

people in their area of responsibility. They helped deliver some 8300 tonnes of humanitarian aid, protecting 10 convoys a week. They received international praise for fostering and protecting humanitarian relief, restoring law and order, and re-establishing a functional legal, social and economic system.

Local infrastructure repairs were also made to schools, the orphanage and police station. Large quantities of weapons were seized including 550 five rifles and 145 machine guns.

During the deployment, tragedy occurred on 2 April 1993 when L Cpl **Shannon Mc Aliney** was shot and killed by an accidental discharge while on patrol.

1 RAR plus the company from 2/4 RAR, SASR, supporting elements (RAN and RAAF), acquitted themselves honourably, professionally and respectfully.

Operation Solace was a demanding deployment with extreme climate and terrain, a primitive disease-ridden country, crowded living conditions and basic accommodation and no recreation facilities.



Lt Col David Hurley, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR), and Commanding Officer of the 1 RAR Battalion Group, serving with the Australian contingent to the Unified Task Force in Baidoa March 1993.



Maj McDonald on deployment at an orphanage in Somalia in 1993

Lt Col Hurley asked a lot of his officers and men, to which they physically and mentally responded. Operation Solace ceased on 4 May 1993. The RAAF was given the role of an airlift of troops back to Australia. Two B707s and three Hercules aircraft shuttled the troops from Baidoa to Mogadishu. Seven loads of 120 troops with full kit and weapons were then flown from Mogadishu to Townsville. The operation was completed on the 23 May 1993.

**- Ken Duthie JP
School Military History Officer**

References:

- A. "Duty First – 2008".
- B. "Diggers – Australians in Eleven Wars".

FROM THE COMMAND POST

The pace of events, commemorations, capital projects, strategic issues, 7 RAR preparing to deploy, petitions, Defence White Paper and the political landscape at Federal and State level has been mind-blowing at times and there is the danger of something of importance being missed or not being addressed and that is always a worry.

Thankfully we have a committee which is not only involved in managing the affairs of our licensed club and the Association, but involved externally in many of the things mentioned above and it's very important for us as an ESO to be heard in certain quarters.

The Centenary of ANZAC is going extremely well, although I would expect us all in four years to be almost commemorated out.

Not taking anything away from those important theatres, battles and campaigns but we have our normal post WW2 annual commemorations to attend to as well which puts enormous pressure on us all and in particular this year being the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan which will not only be a significant commemoration of that battle but also for many, the 50th anniversary for those who served in Vietnam in 1966.

For many the first intake of National Servicemen, where I am sure that period in their lives has been indelibly etched in the memory of those individuals who at the time gave up two years of their life in the defence of this nation, and what a great job they did over that period. The administrative headaches and negotiations for the building of the National Memorial Walk is a major achievement and is going to be a very special place for all South Australians to remember and reflect upon.

Two individuals who deserve a special mention are The Hon **Sir Eric Neal** AC CVO as chair of the VAC and the current Governor of South Australia His Excellency **The Honourable Hieu Van Le** AO, who in so many ways contributed enormously in smoothing the waters and making the Walk a reality.

It is one of the biggest ANZAC Centenary projects in Australia and will do us all proud. **Rob Manton** and his adroit navigation through some shark-infested waters with the odd expanded bait being thrown over the side can also take a bow. Without the support of the Premier and Cabinet this project would not have got off first base and frankly I am very excited for us all in what is going to be great memorial.

The relocation of Ward 17 and the associated issues is progressing and I am delighted at various consultative meetings to have the input of contemporary veterans who will be the clients and trustees of this new facility moving forward.

Emotion and resistance to change doesn't address what is needed to support our young cohorts over the next 50 years which has been a major issue and with the new facility hopefully the future requirements are addressed and the input of our young veterans has been listened to and accepted.

Don't get me going about submarines, patrol boats, air warfare destroyers, Defence hubs and White Papers because we are currently in pre-election pork barreling territory, the wont of both major parties and I will not believe one word emanating from anyone until I see the keel laid for the first patrol boat, destroyer or submarine. What is of particular concern is the jobs of many ex-veterans who I have referred to previously currently in "the valley of death" who must be contemplating where

to from here for themselves and their families, which is very sad and unnecessary.

Not only am I a born optimist but also a realist and the reality of it all is that SA at Federal level has lost a lot of political muscle to the West in particular and therein when it comes to boat building, is the issue.

The ringing of the bell I referred to in a previous article on this subject I think has been well and truly heard by Senator **Nick Xenophon** and it will be very interesting to see what affect his influence will have on these very important decisions.

Some of you may be aware of a petition to secure a Royal Commission into the working and operations of the Department of Veteran Affairs which the Royal Australian Regiment Association has not supported. The venom, lies, anecdotes and criticisms directed by some younger veterans towards our Association in not supporting the petition is very disappointing, in particular the comments we don't care about younger veterans. That is so wrong when you look at the activities where we have had some wins for younger serving and ex serving members of the ADF and the RAR in particular which can be backed and verified.

The criticism of the petition is not the intent or the will of the individuals who put it up but the fact that their organisation has a seat at the ESORT and the Young Veterans Forum at DVA and none of these concerns have ever been raised.

In conclusion Governments will not normally support a Royal Commission into one of their own Departments and our view is that we can get more done by being inside the tent. DVA is not perfect - nothing or anyone is - so let's all pitch in to make it better in a collegiate non-confrontational way.

We must be mindful of Legislation under which DVA must operate and if that Legislation is not working then this is another issue and a possible course of action and that is not a Royal Commission.

I am rather chuffed to discover Australia's first built memorial to those killed in the Dardanelles was unveiled by the South Australian Governor on "Wattle Day", 7 September 1915, just over four months after the first landings. The monument was originally in an area called "Wattle Grove" on Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue in the South Parklands.

Also in South Australia, "Eight Hour Day", 13 October 1915, was renamed "ANZAC Day" and a carnival was organised to raise money for the Wounded Soldiers Fund. So in essence South Australia is the birth place of our sacred and now very strong ANZAC tradition on the 25th April each year and in this during the ANZAC Commemoration period I would hope as many as possible of the Battalion Associations turn out looking a million dollars and marching proud.

Let's give those little kids with their Mums and Dads lining the streets more and more each year something to cheer and clap and catch up for a beer or two at The Old Lion or wherever you may catch up in particular our country warriors and enjoy the day and each other's company.



Michael von Berg MC OAM

Never Alone, Never Forgotten, Always One of Us

Bill Williams, ex-1 RAR Vietnam 65/66, was in Camolin Enniscorthy, Wexford, Ireland, in July 2015, staying with an old 1 RAR buddy, **Ted Somers**, and decided to pay their respects at the graveside of Pte **George Nagel** who was killed while serving with 9 RAR on operations in Hat Dich on 6 January 1969.

His mother wanted the remains to be repatriated and interred in Ireland and George now rests next to his mother in the cemetery. But Bill advised me on the 17 July 2015 via email and with photographs that there was no mention or recognition on George's grave of his supreme sacrifice serving in Vietnam with The Royal Australian Regiment.

Members of the Regiment living in Ireland - and there are quite a few - expressed a view that something should be done to honour George and his service to the Regiment and Australia, but we would need to respect the wishes of the next of kin and, in that regard, George's brother **Willie** and other members of the extended family who still live in County Tipperary, where

George is buried, all agreed that George's service, after all these years, should be more appropriately recognized.

This request with various emails and phone calls was passed on to the Director of Office of Australian War Graves Brig **Chris Appleton AM** (retd) who immediately responded as follows:-

"Thanks for your email re the grave of Private George Nagle in Ireland. We will provide an OAWG plaque for his grave in accordance with his family's wishes. If I can get a photo of the grave that will help inform the options that we give to the family. We will then get a plaque made here and ask the family to find a local contractor to set it on the grave. My office will meet all costs."

This information was forthcoming from Chris a few days after our initial contact. This very encouraging and positive information was passed on to **Bill Williams**, the NOK and the Regimental family in Ireland.

The wheels of progress continued and it is now very pleasing to report that the OAWG through Australia House in London arranged an official presentation of the plaque to George's brother Willie and other family members which will be mounted on George's grave forthwith.

What this essential exercise shows is that no matter where you rest you are never forgotten and George

Nagel was never forgotten by the members of 9 RAR where **Gene Costa** and his wife some time ago attended a grave side ceremony for George in Ireland. 9 RAR in general do an amazing job in commemorating their fallen. What is equally profound is that the concern of or no recognition for George was raised by ex- members of 1 RAR which is testament that no matter in what Battalion you served we are all a part of a proud Regimental family which cares and shares responsibilities for each other.

The last point I wish to make is that this entire exercise has been done at a professional, personal level, directly with the decision-makers who make things happen.

No emails of outrage; no abusive and defamatory claims through the media; no change.org or personal attacks on DVA or the OAWG.

Yes, this is something perhaps which should have been addressed years ago but with George resting in peace so far away and not knowing the wishes of the NOK is understandable.

With any similar situation get "inside the tent", make a compelling and professional

case and anyone can achieve what has been a tremendous result for George and his family.

RIP now, George, your duty and our duty are now done!

- **Michael von Berg**

RAR RSL Sub-Branch News



The result of 6 March 2016 AGM elections are as follows:

President: Rod Graham

Vice-President: Jim Stopford

Secretary: Greg Dwiar

Treasurer: Steve Roberts

Committee: Ken Duthie & Tim Karasoulos

The RAR Sub-Branch continues to operate as a Cyber Sub-Branch (i.e. we don't own

property and our business and communication are done through the internet) with the aim of influencing RSL policy in relation to issues which affect the Regiment, past and present. We work out of RARA Burnside in conjunction with the Association. We are, in affect, an experimental Sub-branch, the only others being Peace Keepers and the Women's Sub-Branches.

Membership: If you are not a member of the RSL, please consider joining our Sub-Branch. If you are a member but not active in a Sub-Branch consider a transfer to our Sub-Branch. Numbers are important.

Rod Graham
President

Rodg2@bigpond.com: 0427 977 145



Top: Bill Williams at George Nagel's graveside. Above: OAWG through Australia House in London arranged an official presentation of the plaque to George's brother Willie and other family members which will be mounted on George's grave.

Details for ANZAC Day Commemoration in Adelaide



On Monday 25 April 2016 the annual ANZAC Day Commemorative March will be held in Adelaide.

The March will commence at 9.30am with the RAR Association marching by battalion association groups followed by the Australian Special Air Service Regiment Association; both in Group 9.

The Order of March within Group 9 will be:

RAR Association State President & party.

1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

[South Australia Police Pipes & Drums](#)



3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

[All Group 9 Transport Vehicles.](#)

7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

[Marion City Band.](#)

2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

5th/7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

The Special Air Service Regiment.

Associations will form up on the eastern side of Pultney Street between North Terrace and Rundle Mall.

All Group 9 associations and bands are to proceed along Sir Edwin Smith Avenue, to the corner of Pennington Terrace, before halting and dispersing.

Group 9 will be preceded by:

The March Flag party and Boer War and WW 1 banners.

WW 2 Navy, Army and Air Force veterans.

BCOF / Korea / Malaya, Borneo & Navy, Army & Air Force Vietnam and South East Asia Veterans.

Group 9 will be followed by:

Recent Conflicts and Peace Keepers.

Non-returned former and serving personnel.

Australian Defence Force.

Allied ex-service personnel.

This ANZAC Day will be a very special one for us all when we give the eyes right at the North Terrace National Memorial and look down Kintore Avenue. We will be able to glance down at the new ANZAC Memorial Walk, one of the biggest ANZAC Centenary Projects in Australia, which, after some eight years in the making, will be a reality and a wonderful place for reflection and respect for all those who served over the last 100 years, but most importantly those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Representatives of Allied Nations.

Descendants (previously known as NOK) and Marshals; grouped into Boer War & WW 1, WW 2 and post-WW 2 descendants.

Note that the RAR Association SA has chosen to march as a formed body for a number of years now and as we are such a large group and cover so many conflicts; we march behind most of the Vietnam groups.

Also as this is a commemorative march non-returned persons including children should not march with us but may march with the Descendants groups.

Adrian Craig
Ceremonial

ANZAC DAY BARBECUE

As usual, for the Royal Australian Regiment Association the management of the Old Lion Hotel (pictured), North Adelaide, has have put together a special package to cater for our needs.

The catering and drinks packages and prices are:

\$14.90 includes lamb chop, beef sausage, steak, roast potatoes and onions and salad bar.

Schooner of Coopers Pale Ale, Carlton Draught, or Cascade Light or glass of house wine or soft drink.

DRINK SPECIALS

Coopers Pale Ale & Carlton Draught **schooners - \$4.00**

Coopers Pale Ale and Carlton Draught **Pints - \$5.00**

Cascade Light **schooners - \$3.50**

Cascade Light **pints - \$4.50**

Glass of House Wine - **\$5.00**

We have seating allocated to us in the casual dining room and the normal bar areas where we can mingle with the young diggers and officers of 7 RAR which will be the last time we will have an opportunity to have a beer with them before they deploy.

We very much look forward to seeing you all there.

Michael von Berg



Second article on the Boer War and memorial by Trevor Jones Progress and the design of the memorial

Louis Laumen's statuary pays tribute to both the men and the horses that suffered the privations of war: burning sun and frosty cold, rain and sticking mud, hard dry wind and dust, the roughness of the veldt, barely survival rations, suspect water and lice.

The Memorial recognises that all Australian troops in the Boer War were mounted and dependent on horses to tow their ambulances, artillery and supply wagons, to match the highly mobile Boer soldiers. It recalls their endurance and sacrifice, cast in enduring bronze.

The four statues will be depicted in patrol or action positions. Most Australian soldiers were Infanteers, using their horses for patrolling and mobility and to demount in an action, whereas the Cavalry had bigger and stronger horses and generally fought an action mounted.

The most difficult design task has been to link the time when the Boer War took place, celebrated then by great landscape artists like Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton, simultaneously recognising that the memorial is actually being erected at this time in the 21st century and how the present is represented by more contemporary landscapes of Russell Drysdale and Sydney Nolan.

The patrol section could be from any contingent sent, i.e. depending from what colony that you enlisted, called Lancers, Bushmen, Rifles, Gunners, or the medics and their Stretcher Bearers. After a few months they all looked the same, spit and polish faded to khaki chameleons melding into the Veldt.

As a modern memorial, it is intended that visitors to the site will be able to walk among the statues in touching range to get something of the sensation of being on the Veldt, sharing the hardships of operating in a hostile environment.

While the vegetation and the shape of the hills in South Africa are different, both bush landscapes have uncanny similarities and evolved to cope with low rainfall. The air is crystal clear, but easily becomes dusty, the light is harsh and sunrises and sunsets brilliant.

Between the bitumen of ANZAC Parade and the gradual beginning of the memorial, the designers have ensured there is space for commemorative ceremonies. The magnificent design suits the commemorative purpose, sits well in the site and complements the memorials of later conflicts already erected along ANZAC Parade.

Second Horseman ready for full-size modelling

The first completed bronze horseman has now been handed over and is now in storage in Canberra, courtesy of the Australian War Memorial.

A half-size plasticine model of the second horseman has also been completed and work has begun on the full-size clay model. "I think all will agree that the detail and overall effect is breathtaking," as stated by the Boer War Memorial Association and, "also underway at present is completion of the final design elements for the site and, again by the time you are reading this, the plans would have been submitted to the National Capital Authority for approval."

Funding

As reported in a previous edition of the 'Infantryman' a further \$2.2 million has to be raised to complete the project.

The most welcome news is that the Federal government has invited the NBWMA to apply for a grant of up to \$1.45 million to assist the construction of the Memorial. If this is successful, a further \$700,000 is still needed and therefore much work is to be done before the proposed dedication target date on 'Boer War Day,' 31 May 2017.



About the sculptor

Born in the Netherlands in 1958 and immigrating to Australia in 1960, Louis Laumen studied sculpture in Melbourne and gained a Graduate Diploma of Fine Arts with Distinction in 1984.

After some instructing and teaching, he eventually became a full time artist in 1995. His military sculptural connection has a long history:

- 1990 finalist for the National Memorial of the Australian forces Vietnam
- 1994 finalist for the 'Weary' Dunlop Memorial competition, Melbourne
- 1994 finalist for the Australian war Memorial, Fromelles
- 1995 commissioned Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop statue, Benalla, Victoria
- 1997 finalist National Korean War Memorial, Canberra
- 1998 commissioned Widows and Children's sculpture, Legacy Garden, Melbourne
- 2011 commissioned 'Pompey' Elliot statue, Ballarat, Victoria
- 2012 on March 1, the Boer War Memorial design unveiled by General David Hurley, AC, DSC, the Association's National Patron

or know a descendant?

As well as many other religious, political and sporting works, one of particular interest to sporting fans:

2002 commissioned to create 10 portrait statues, Sir Donald Bradman, Betty Cuthbert, Ron Barassi, Keith Miller, Dick Reynolds, Shirley Strickland, Hayden Bunton, Leigh Mathews, Bill Ponsford and Dennis Lillee for the MCG, Melbourne, Victoria. Project completed December 2006. Shane Warne was added in 2011.

The National Boer War Memorial Association

Are you a Boer War descendant or know of someone that is, or do you want to know more about Australia's involvement in this fascinating time in Australia's history? Visit the web site where you can also check out the Ancestor registrations link. National Boer War Memorial Association site: www.bwm.org.au

Your support and generosity would be appreciated and is needed.

Donations are tax deductible. Direct bank transfer to The Defence Bank National Boer War Memorial Account BSB 803-205 Account 2035 8376.

Please include your last name and initials on bank transfers.

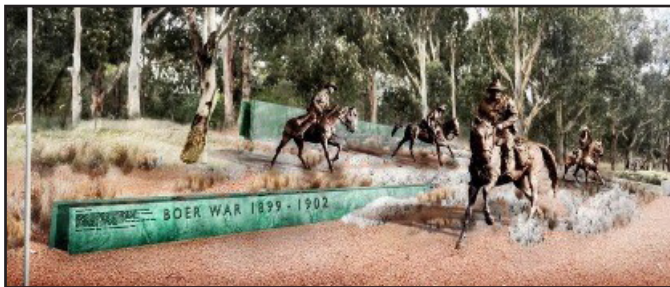
Or please make cheques payable to National Boer War Memorial Association Inc.

Mail this donation to the Treasurer at the address shown and include your own address to allow a receipt to be mailed to you.

National Boer War Memorial Fund
Building 96, Victoria Barracks,
Paddington, NSW 2021

Phone: (02) 8335 5209 Facsimile (02) 8335 5357

Email: secretary@bwm.org.au or www.bwm.org.au



The site design for the memorial in Canberra.

Boer War Day – Adelaide

A Commemorative Service is held at the Boer War Memorial in front of the Governors Residence, corner of North Terrace and King William Street, Adelaide, on the last Sunday in May each year at 11a.m. This well attended service, mainly by descendents and those who have interest in the Boer War will be held on Sunday May 29 this year. All welcome.

Stop Press! Stop Press! Stop Press!

The Department of Defence has now approved a grant of \$1.45 million towards the completion of Australia's first national Boer War Memorial in Canberra, following through on the \$200,000 in seed funding provided by the Commonwealth in 2013.

This leaves just \$300,000 for the fund to raise between January and June: a realistic challenge for our many friends and supporters.

Message from Minister of Veterans' Affairs

At this time 100 years ago sombre preparations would have been nearing completion for the first anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings. On 25 April 1916 ANZAC Day was commemorated at Victoria Square. The Governor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition addressed those assembled, including a number of soldiers who had served at Gallipoli. Governor, Sir Henry Galway, made the following statement:

When we think of those splendid men who performed the supreme sacrifice for love of country, our hearts go out in respect.

The ceremony concluded with one minute's silence, the sounding of factory sirens and a march through the city by returned soldiers.

Over the Centenary of ANZAC period we've all had the opportunity to reflect on the legacy of the brave men and women from SA whose service and sacrifice in all wars, conflicts and peace operations have preserved the way of life we enjoy today.

I thank the Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, for his service as the inaugural Chair of the Veterans' Advisory Council (VAC). Sir Eric commenced the role on 11 November 2008, supported by his wife Lady Joan Neal AM. Sir Eric immediately embraced the veteran community and presided over significant issues such as the Centenary of ANZAC, SA's Charter for Veterans, naming of state infrastructure projects, construction of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial, issues concerning veterans' health care and the wellbeing of currently serving and former Australian Defence Force Personnel.

Sir Eric intends passing the reigns to a new Chair after the completion of our state's flagship Anzac Centenary project, the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk.

The veteran community is most welcome to attend the opening of the Memorial Walk at 12.30pm on Saturday 23 April 2016 at the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue.

It will not be possible to replace Sir Eric with an equally pre-eminent individual, but we will do our best to seek out the best available person to help us continue our work, with a particular emphasis on contemporary veterans, to ensure the concerns of all veterans and their families are addressed.

Later this year our thoughts and prayers will be with the soldiers and families of the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment when they deploy to Iraq. We have a solemn collective responsibility to care for the families and soldiers when they return home. It is pleasing the Australian Defence Force proactively implements plans to care for families as part of its operational commitments.

I recently had the opportunity to welcome two strong supporters of the veteran community into State Cabinet. The Hon Leesa Vlahos MP has been appointed Minister for Disabilities, Mental health and Substance Abuse. The Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC has been appointed as Minister for Police, Correctional Services, Emergency Services and Road Safety. I look forward to working closely with both Ministers on matters concerning veterans' mental health and incarceration. I congratulate Mr Dan Tehan MP on being appointed Commonwealth Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

To everyone who supports our servicemen and women, whether through an ex-service organisation or individually, I thank you on behalf of the South Australian community and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Please contact Veterans SA on (08) 8226 8552 or via veteranssa@sa.gov.au if you have a matter that you would like the Veterans' Advisory Council to consider in 2016.

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Infantryman April 2016 7

Combined Regiments 47th Anniversary Hat Dich Commemorative Service

Royal Australian Regiment Association 19 February 2016

Hat Dich 3 December 1968 - 19 February 1969

Hat Dich Commemoration Speech by John F Genovese RFD

We have gathered today to commemorate the Battle of Hat Dich in memory of the Diggers that paid the ultimate sacrifice serving their country. We honour the loss of these warriors by never forgetting them, by reflecting on the time we shared in good times and in battle.

The **Battle of Hat Dich** was a series of military actions in an area in western Phuoc Tuy, south-eastern Bien Hoa and south-western Long Khan provinces. Intelligence reports indicated an increase in frequency and numbers of VC and NVA activity.

A Divisional force commanded by BRIG Sandy Pearson, Comd 1ATF, comprising of Australian, NZ, US, ARVN and Thai forces was deployed to block the approaches towards key US and South Vietnamese bases in Bien Hoa, Long Binh and Saigon in anticipation of the 1969 Tet offensive where it was suspected the enemy intended to disrupt and destroy the bases and infrastructure.

The battle lasted approximately two and a half months from 3rd December 1968 to 19th February 1969. BRIG Sandy Pearson commanded a force of some 10,000 We, (1 RAR Battle Gp), were inserted in an AO codenamed 'Townsville' - east of Saigon, halfway between Bien Hoa and Nui Dat.

1 RAR, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Phil Bennett and support arms including Centurion tanks from C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regt, M113 APCs (Armoured Personnel Carriers) from A SQN, 3rd Cav Regt, 105 mm howitzers from the batteries of 12th Fd Regt, RAA and 155 mm M109 SP artillery from A Bty, US 2/35 Artillery Regt and C Bty, US 2/40 Artillery Regt, as well as engineers from 1 Fd Sqn.

Later, following an extension of the AO on the 11th December, the joint New Zealand and Australian battalion, 4th Bn RAR/NZ (ANZAC) was deployed and on 1st January 1969, 9 RAR was the third battalion to join the battle tasked to relieve 1 RAR. It was planned to maintain two battalions on Operation Goodwood at all times.

History has edified me about Hat Dich; my recollection of it, however, is a simple private soldier's memory of events I'd like to share with you.

My name is John Genovese, Gino to the men of 6 PI B Coy, 1 RAR who for me are as much a part of me as my family is. On the 2nd December, 1968 I recall being outside my hoochy with Greeny the sect 2IC, Clarky the gunner and me as #2 made up the gun group of 9 sect.

We thought we were a pretty good team. The three of us were preparing to close with the enemy, to kill or capture him, by day or night irrespective of weather or terrain.

On 19 February 2016 John Genovese, the representative for the 1 RAR Association in South Australia, was asked to deliver a commemoration speech for the combined operation of 1, 4 and 9 RARs, SASR and supporting arms in the Hat Dich Secret Zone at the end of 1968 and early 1969. John delivered a

wonderful, uncomplicated digger's view on this period and it was considered appropriate to include his speech in this copy of the Infantryman. Many stories and books have been written about the Vietnam War, mostly by ex-officers and NCOs, and it was truly refreshing to get John's digger "sharp end" view during this difficult period where a combined 26 individuals were killed in action. Hopefully John's speech will encourage other ex-diggers to write a piece for the Infantryman magazine.

- Michael von Berg.

We, along with the rest of the PI, were packing our rations:

- 3 days' supply of mixed Australian and US rations, let's see, that would be about 6 kilos,
- Ammunition, 400 rounds 7.62 link and 5 mags of 7.62 SLR rounds - about 10 kilos I guess.
- A couple of M26 grenades and a Claymore, God, another 2 kilos.
- 4 water bottles, there's 4 more kilos. Total weight was around 22 kilos. If you consider that a 20 litre jerry can of water weighs 20 kilos, you will have an idea of the weight we carried in and on our backpack and webbing.
- One spare set of greens,
- one spare pair of socks,
- sweat rag for body hygiene, washing dixies etc.
- Kodak instamatic,
- trany with earpiece - got to listen to Chicken man.
- Weapon, cleaned, oiled and ready. Good! Ready to saddle up in the morning.

That afternoon Father Tinkler, the Bn Padre came to say Mass and give us general absolution.

I loved going to Mass before an Op because in war, Catholics didn't need to go to confession, we were absolved of our sins on mass. It was a truly cleansing experience. You would be surprised how powerful that was, the feeling of going into battle in a state of grace.

That night I wrote home to mum and thought about the coming operation. I thought about Grub Hughes and Ian Gibb both of whom were killed in action previously during Operation Capital.

December 3

Mount APCs, off to fight the baddies. On the trip to the AO we would joke, gee each other up, discuss what we'd do after the Op. Pretending everything was sweet and hoping our fear didn't show. We secured FSB Dyke then

started patrolling, there were a number of contacts, fairly insignificant but never the less, scary.

We had come across a bunker system, withdrew to call in a fire mission, when we returned we engaged some VC leaving the bunkers or what was left of them. We know we hit someone because of the blood trails, but found no bodies, truth is it was probably the arty fire that was responsible for the blood trail.

During the second week we were putting in PI-size



John Genovese RFD 1 RAR
SA Representative with Michael
Mummery OAM Acting President 9
RAR SA (left) and Rodney Harris
President 4 RAR SA (right).

Right: Mos Hancock, OAM, President of 5 RAR, waits to lay his floral tribute. To his left is Chas Manix.



Right below: WO1 Trevor Jordan, RSM HQ 9 Brigade on the right. Left of picture front row from left: Patron Laurie Lewis AM; Minister for Veterans Affairs The Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP; Vicki Chapman MP; Tim Hanna, President RSL SA & NT. Second row from right: Ed Cowley, W Company veteran of Hat Dich, Deane Pye, Secretary ASASR SA; and Dr. Anh Tuan Ngo AM President Vietnamese Veterans Association SA.. The Catafalque Party and Flag Orderlies were provided by A Squadron, The 1st Armoured Regiment.



Catafalque party members from the Adelaide Universities Regiment from Hampstead Barracks were OPSO Maj James Knet, ZIC Maj Jim O'Hanlon, RSM WO1 Wayne Weeks. Absent was CO LtCol Jake Kearsley.

ambushes. This involved establishing a PI base some distance from the ambush site and rotating the sections through.

On the morning of December 15 we established a PI harbour and commenced rotating the sections through the ambush site situated some 150 metres away.

Around 1700, our section moved out to replace the section in the ambush site. We had scored the evening stint. I had just lain down next to the man I was replacing when the recognisable crack of AK-47s and a couple of RPG explosions burst in the tree line above us.



We returned fire, I could see them, it was the first time I saw the enemy clearly, they were about 25 metres away, I remember thinking "it's like being on the 25 metre range". Yet I couldn't understand why they weren't dropping?

Again thinking in a somewhat rather explicit language whilst I was returning fire, "this instinctive firing isn't working for me".

Then I saw an amazing thing, their method of withdrawal from a contact consisted of a squat and waddling of at what seemed an incredible speed.

We carried out a sweep, found one body and some blood trails. From that time on I made sure my rounds were no higher than knee high during a contact. It was after the sweep that most of us realised our PI Comd, Pepe Prendergast, was hit in the ear, the projectile's trajectory continued through his shoulder and exited from his back.

He was medevacked and thankfully, subsequently recovered. He still holds his 6PI boys together to this day.

Jazza Smith, the PI Sargent, took command of the PI until the new boss, Hendo Henderson, was posted to the Dirty Half Dozen and life as a green clad jungle killer continued. On 1 Jan we were relieved by 9 RAR and were redeployed on the 2nd to conduct cordon and search then more of the same, ambushes, bunkers and contacts.

I for one was pretty damn happy when it all finished. We had 1 WIA, no KIA in the PL this time but the Bn still mourned Pte Rands, L/Cpl Kalma and Pte Cox. As did 4 RAR, 9 RAR, 2 SQN SAS, C SQN 1 ARMD REGT and A SQN 3 CAV for their diggers.

These are the memories of the soldier whose world consisted of those men around him. He looked to them for strength, for a friendly ear, for someone to share his existence. He was prepared to do his all for his mate as his mate would do for him.

May all the KIAs who left us in Hat Dich Rest In Peace and may Light Perpetual Shine upon them.

John (Gino) Genovese

John F Genovese RFD SJ JP
1RAR Rep



Above: Chaplain Mark Dickens, Central Region, giving the Call to Worship.



Below: John Genovese, 1 RAR SA, presenting the Commemorative Address.



Frequent participants Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers - Rosemary Bilac, Diana Lubus, Christine Mason, Margaret Lambert, Joelle Hancock and Terri Clark.



Bien Hoa Combined Regiment Commemoration 1 March 2016



Colonel Peter Scott, DSO, (left) and Lt Col Robert (Bob) Hogarth (right), the Intelligence Officer of 2 RAR during Operation Coburg, who gave the Commemorative Address.



Pipe Major Des Ross plays the Australian Quick March Waltzing Matilda as the farewell march.



Bugler Musician Michael Bampton and Chaplain Matthew Stuart.



Schools Military Officer History Officer Ken Duthie (left) with Craig Cornell and David White.



Mrs Ceremonial Sandra Craig places a poppy. Catafalque party members from 7th Battalion Horseshoe Lines, RAAF Base, Edinburgh, were CSM D Coy WO2 A. Ashman, Cpl Murray, Pte Crooks, Pte Bowe, Pte Surridge, Pte Kennington. Flag orderlies CFN Stubbs and Pte Keefe.



RAR SA Secretary Jim Stopford and Vice President Rodney Graham preparing the barbecue.



Mr. Yun Lee President, Korean Vietnam Veterans Association, places a poppy in the wreath. Catherine Lambert is in the foreground.



Mt Barker RSL members in attendance were Ric Castle, logistic support, ex-Vietnam Navy member; Vice President Chris Burgess, Army 16 AD Regiment; Secretary David Furner; Keith Parkes, 1, 3 and 4 Battalions; and RSL State President Tim Hanna AM. Centre below: Fred Fairhead and Peter Scott place poppies.



Bragg MP Vicki Chapman and (seated) Andrew McLachlan CSC MLC representing the Shadow Minister.



Bien Hoa Commemoration



On Tuesday 1 March the RAR Association SA conducted the inaugural Bien Hoa Commemorative Service at its clubrooms at Linden Park clubrooms A light lunch followed.

The service commemorated the battle honour Bien Hoa which was awarded to the Royal Australian Regiment and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment for their actions during Operation Coburg east of the Bien Hoa and Long Binh airfield and logistics complexes in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam from 24 January to 1 March 1968 before, during and after the enemy Tet 1968 Offensive which was a strategic turning point in the war while a tactical failure for the enemy.

It was the first major "Out of Province" operation for the 1st Australian Task Force and the Australian and New Zealanders lost heavily with the war dead during Operation Coburg being:

2 RAR – six; 3 RAR – two; 7 RAR – five; 131st Divisional Locating Battery – one; 1st Field Squadron RAE – four; RNZIR – one; and 161st Field Battery RNZA – one.

Key players during the service were:

Master Of Ceremonies – Russell Campbell OAM.

Host and Welcome Address – Vice President Rodney Graham.

Chaplain - Matthew Stuart 16 Air Land Regiment.

Commemorative Address – Robert Hogarth Intelligence Officer 2 RAR during Op Coburg.

Roll of Honour – Kenneth Duthie 3 RAR rifleman during Op Coburg.

Scripture Reading – Noel Biggins 7 RAR rifleman during Op Coburg.

Placing tributes for war dead: Australian war dead – Craig Cornell 1 Field Squadron RAE. New Zealand war dead - Ed Cowley 161 Field Battery RNZA and W Coy 1 RNZIR.

Ode – Bruce Wright, 131 Div Loc Battery.

Catafalque Party and Flag Orderlies: D Coy 7 RAR.

Choral: Catherine Lambert and The Terrace Singers.

Pipe Major; Des Ross.

Bugler: Musician Michael Bampton 10/27 RSAR Band.

Musical entertainment during lunch: Rosemary Bilac.

Plus of course we had the Club Manager Greg Dwiar and his staff backing us including the lunch.

Our thanks go to the SA Minister for Veterans Affairs for his generous grant which covered most of the costs of the service and lunch. The new RSM JOSS SA is also thanked for arranging the ceremonial support at short notice.

We will be conducting a similar service in 2018 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the battle honour Bien Hoa.

**Adrian Craig
Ceremonial**



Separate 2016 Treks for South Australian men and women

2016 will see separate male and female Treks run in SA from 18 to 23 September.

For full details contact:

a. POC SA Female Trek: Amanda Kaplan 0411 418 123
amanda.kaplan@trojanstrek.com

b. POC SA Male Trek: Greg Hallam 0419 312 884 or
greg@trojanstrek.com

If you're interested you need to download:

General instructions and check list (Word file)

Personal and medical information

Participants are required to gain a doctor's clearance. Participation is free, ex Adelaide. Travel assistance is available. Speak to the relevant POC. Younger veterans, ie post Vietnam, are the target group from any of the services.



The 2010 crew at Nuccalenna.

Each trek will cater for up to 12 serving and ex-service volunteers identified as individuals who will benefit from the experience.

The SA trek will be based in the North

Flinders Ranges at Moolooloo Station which is 42 km east of Parachilna. The course will utilise the remote environment combined with team and individual analysis assisted by skilled leaders.

The program will be delivered by veterans who have faced and overcome the issues which confront younger veterans. Civilian expertise will also be utilised. Trojan's Trek will provide the setting and conditions under which participants will experience a lasting positive shift in personal values and interpersonal relationships designed to improve their lifestyle and community involvement.

The objectives are to develop in the participants through joint and individual challenge:

An understanding of how thoughts and feelings influence behaviour; exposure to various strategies which will bring about positive change; suggested individual responses which are effective in achieving the aim, and enhance self esteem;

To date the impact of the trek on participants and families has been excellent. The program has been independently evaluated by the Australian Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health. The Trojan's Trek Board is keen to continue the program and convincing those who make decisions in this area, that this approach to military stress is a valuable adjunct to other methods of treatment. The philosophy of peer to peer support is sound and may have wider application within the military and other organisations.

Moose Dunlop
moose@trojanstrek.com
Mobile: 0408 088 886

Extracted from Trojan's Trek website

Bring home the 43 Missing in Action with dignity and for closure

The 43 Australian missing in action (MIA) servicemen of the Korean War may be missing in action but not missing in the hearts and minds of the bereaved next of kin (NOK) of these servicemen.

Although some 63 years have passed since the ceasefire of the Korean War there are still many NOK and descendants of those who are MIA who have never had the opportunity to grieve or bring about some closure.

Of the 43 MIA, 23 are from The Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), 18 from The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and 2 from The Royal Australian Navy (RAN). With more than 53% of the MIA being from the RAR the RAR Association has taken a particular interest in this matter and has had a very close working relationship with Mr **Ian Saunders**, the son of Private **John Phillip Saunders** of 3 RAR, who has been MIA since the 25 January 1953.

Ian has been tireless in his pursuit to have his father and the other MIAs recovered, identified and returned to Australia and has been a rallying point for the NOK. For his efforts Ian was awarded the OAM.

However, despite representative support from Vice Admiral **Ian Crawford**, President of the Australian Korean War Veterans Association (AKVWA), to Australian Governments, Ian was hitting brick walls and not getting the level of support expected.

From the outside looking in it seemed as if those responsible for the recovery, identification and repatriation of our war dead and MIA simply thought it all too hard which was very disappointing when all of the MIA from the Vietnam War had been returned but not without a similar initial attitude.

The support of the RAR Association was sought and at the AGM in 2014 it was unanimously agreed the Association would do everything possible to encourage the Government to recover, identify and repatriate the remains of the MIA to Australia. The support was also sought of the State Government of South Australia through the State Veterans Advisory Council and The Premier Hon **Jay Weatherill** who approached the Prime Minister directly for his support. Of the 43 MIA, 17 were from 3 RAR which was based at Woodside from 1965 to 1981. In addition four of the MIA are from South Australia, hence the link and the desire of the SA Government to assist.

The initial approaches by Ian Saunders to Army received the following response. The **"ADF will only investigate human remainswhere there is strong circumstantial and cogent evidencethis evidence make take the form ofsubstantial research from military records."**

That evidence was discovered by Ian from AWM military records / war diaries / Operation Glory files and

CARO Melbourne who had records confirming the last known location of our Australian MIA Servicemen. The documented evidence, 107 pages, was submitted to the Army History Unit, Campbell Park, in August 2009 and subsequently passed on and through that initiative the Unrecovered War Casualties (UWC) Unit was created.

The UWC-A is the department within Army responsible for the management of this and other MIA issues. Through external and internal pressures and working through the chain of command we have been able to encourage the escalation of this important activity to where a Korea MIA Committee of vested interest parties has been established working with ADF to get some much needed traction and, hopefully, positive outcomes.

The long periods of no updates or information for the NOK have been rectified where an update will be provided after each Korea MIA Committee meeting. The committee is chaired by Colonel **Andrew Hocking** DCOS AHQ and has representations from the RARA, Air

Force Association, Navy Association and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, service heads representation, Korea Veterans Associations and the NOK represented by Ian Saunders and some individual family members. The first meeting was held on the 9 December 2015 and the next meeting is scheduled for, but not confirmed but likely to be, in March 2016.

The Americans have been successful in their negotiations with both the North and South Koreans to recover allied

forces MIA remains but only partially successful before 2005 with the North Koreans. The Americans are the leaders in the identification of recovered remains and in establishing an effective DNA testing facility in Hawaii.

Ian Saunders has made personal contact with both The United States Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) and The South Korean Ministry of National Defence Agency for Missing in Action Recovery and Identification (MAKRI). From his correspondence both Agencies are willing to assist Australia with DNA testing when requested.

The successful recovery action (initiated by **Jim Burke** MG and his Team with Government assistance) to bring home the missing from the Vietnam War was a huge boost to the nation's morale and not only brought closure to the NOK but the nation as a whole and in particular the Vietnam Veterans and their mantra "we leave nobody behind".

Some seven years have passed since the documented evidence required by Army has been provided and the UWC-A established but, notwithstanding the complexities in dealing across geopolitical and social boundaries, seven years of nothing is a long time between drinks.

The NOK affected deserve better and the MIA remains must be recovered, identified, repatriated and interred in the soil and bosom of their beloved country. Anything



from The Forgotten War – Korea

less would be a travesty and further fuel the notion that Korea is the Forgotten War.

The Royal Australian Regiment, newly established in 1948, had its baptism of fire in the Korean War and subsequent battle honours and Presidential Citation for its courage and determination in the Battle of Kapyong (3 RAR) and later the Battle of the Hook (2 RAR) are very important parts of the Regiment's history.

Our duty will not be done until we see those MIA where possible returned home.

It would be remiss of us not to recognise the extreme sacrifice of The Royal Australian Air Force and 77 Squadron in particular where some 18 airmen are listed as MIA, many one, assumes, sadly resting in their watery graves - if shot down over land we hope to retrieve these as well.

The Australian Government is spending tens of millions of dollars in searching for the mysterious Malaysian Airways flight 370 and very quick to respond in assisting the recovery of the bodies and remains of Malaysian Airways flight 17 shot down over the Ukraine which is what we would expect of a nation which cares for its citizens and the recovery of the MIA from the Korean War is no different. More complex, clouded by time perhaps, but nothing can be too hard when driven by a nation's debt and conscience.

Michael von Berg MC OAM
President
RAR Corporation



The RARA Directors (pictured from left) all have portfolios not only to spread the work load but ensure there is a focus.

Brian 'Hori' Howard AO MC ESM - Conditions of Service in the ADF;

Pat McIntosh AM CSC (Retd) - Homelessness, RSL Care;

Trevor Dixon - Communications and Young Veterans Liaison;

Michael von Berg MC OAM - Mental Health, RAR Council Member and Liaison

Ted Chitham MC OAM – National Secretary, MIA Korea Project, ADSO Fair Go Campaign

Quote from Jim Bourke 2014:

The family members, relatives and The Australian Korean War Veterans' community yearn for respect, dignity and closure for those servicemen who died in the service of our nation.

3 RAR SA Battle of Kapyong 65th anniversary commemorative service 11am 24 april 2016



3RAR SA will conduct its annual Battle of Kapyong Commemorative Service at the RAR Association RSL Clubrooms at Beatty St, Linden Park commencing at 11.00 am Sunday 24 April 2016. This year will be the 65th Anniversary of the Battle.

The Battle of Kapyong - 23-25 April 1951 - was fought by the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade (27 BCB) as part of the blocking of the North Korean advance towards Seoul in late April 1951. 3rd battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) was part of 27 BCB and lost 32 killed, 53 wounded and three were made prisoners of war (one of whom; Private Horace 'Slim' Madden was awarded the George Cross posthumously). For their actions 3 RAR, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and Company A, 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion (US) were awarded the US Presidential Unit Citation. The Royal Australian Regiment was awarded the battle honour Kapyong for 3 RAR's actions during the Battle

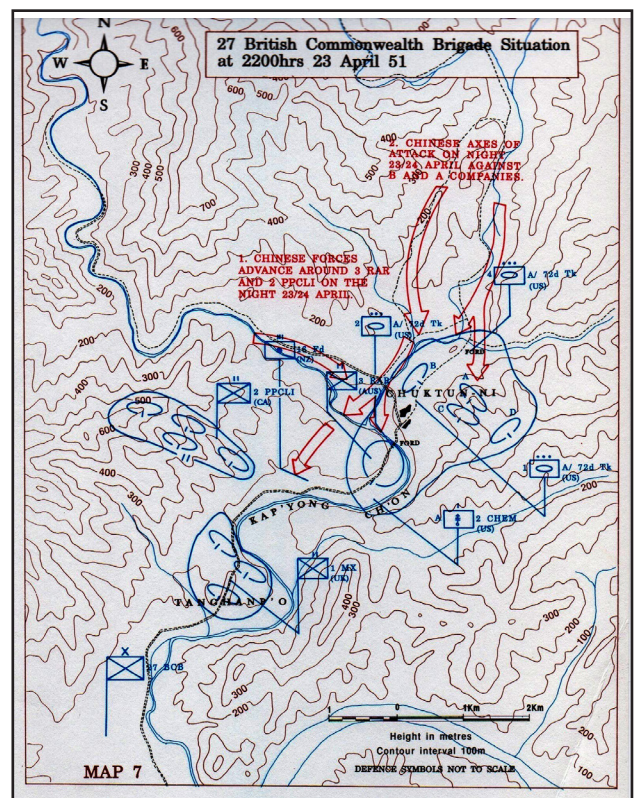
A light lunch will be served in the Clubrooms after the Service.

Service and ex-service members are requested to wear decorations and medals.

Car parking is available in Beatty St and nearby streets. There is no need to book for lunch.

The 3 RAR SA contact is the Ceremonial Officer, Adrian Craig on 8263 4784 and as.craig9rar@bigpond.com

A depiction of the Battle on the evening of 23 April 1951 is shown below.



Book launched extraordinary story

The launch of "Stone Cold", the extraordinary true story of **Len Opie** "Australia's Deadliest Soldier", by author **Andrew Faulkner**, was held at the RAR Clubrooms on February 5.

The large attendance is testament to Andrew's writing style but most importantly the high esteem in which Len Opie is held in the community in South Australia.

Len never married and his family was represented by his three nieces, gracious ladies of who Len was justifiably proud. Many of us who knew Len never actually served with him but we all recognised this great soldier who was a bit of an enigma as a teetotaler, passionate about his animals and an operator and collector of electric trains, yet as described in the book, a deadly soldier.

Some insightful words about Len were presented by our own **Fred Fairhead** and author now in his own right and it was great to see the Officers and NCOs of 7 RAR in attendance on this special occasion.

- Michael von Berg



Andrew's nieces (from left) Carolyn Harry, Lee Waye and Jill Marton.
Below: Carolyn recalls memories of Len Opie.



Above: Andrew signs a copy of "Stone Cold" to Mick Mummery
Above: A kiss for his partner Melanie Reid in appreciation of her support while he was writing the book over the past five years.



Right: Andrew presents a signed copy of the book to Captain Sam Dowse for 7 RAR's library.



Right: Dr Donald Beard and other guests and in the background 7 RAR officers and NCOs



'Deadly soldier' but passionate, generous, considerate and loyal

When I joined the relatively politically-correct free army in the 1960s it was still permissible for men to have a reputation approaching godlike status, that is men who were known as warriors of great character – people like Dasher Wheatley, Ted Serong, Jack Morrison, George Mansford and of course Len Opie.

They were known for their deeds both on and off the battlefield – a mixture of truth, fantasy and folklore but were held to be heroes of our time – even when one did not know of them personally.

From memory I only met Len Opie once and that was here at the regimental club house and when he was in his twilight years.

I did however write to him in the 1980s when Bludger Blake had asked me to drum up financial support for the development of the regiment's national memorial walk at Enoggera – he had asked me to track down retired officers of the regiment living in South Australia and to request a donation – I can still recall the response from Len which said in a curt and precise way that he had never served as a

officer in the regiment so why was I writing to him – it was a sort of “get your facts right mate”!

However, I did have two things in common with Len, model railways

and a distaste for shooting unarmed animals – I recall as a young man wondering whether I could teach a big buck red to hold and fire a handgun.

For my generation, Len's reputation as a warrior came from his involvement in the Korean and Vietnam wars and times in between. Those wars are well known to those of us who were privileged to serve in the Royal Australian Regiment however that is not necessarily the case for the public at large and indeed the Korean War is often referred to as the Forgotten War and the Vietnam War as “the war that couldn't be won”, though I note there is currently a popular car sticker that says “we were winning when I left”

- There were major differences in these two wars that Len Opie served in with distinction. Our involvement in the Korean war was at the behest of the United Nations and was thus above board, however, given its proximity to the end of WW11 a public tired of war was not all that interested in what was happening on the Korean peninsula.
- On the other hand, Australia's involvement in the second Indo China War in Vietnam was for very dubious reasons and indeed we basically invited ourselves to join in what became a very unpopular involvement bought on by an intrusive and sometimes ill informed media, public dissent and political posturing.

The Korean War was fought in the most difficult of terrain in appalling weather conditions and against a well armed and numerically superior enemy which fought conventional warfare and were easily identifiable, especially after the Chinese entered the

war on 1st November 1950.

- In Vietnam it was totally different. The enemy were anywhere and everywhere, often not distinguishable from the civilian population who in the main were sympathetic to the cause of the revolution. The Vietnam war was also conducted in the somewhat peculiar and indeed sometimes bizarre style and tactics of the US army, whereas in Korea, the Australians fought mainly under a British Commonwealth banner where tactics tried and true could be employed and were on many occasions by the 1st Commonwealth Division in which the British, Australians, New Zealanders and Canadians served for much of the war.
- There is a theme common to both wars however and that was the personal values of courage, leadership, comradeship and loyalty of the men who served. These are values which I suggest are essential for the successful outcome of infantry in battle.

- Len Opie is remembered as having all of those values and especially as he demonstrated while serving with 3 RAR on 23 and 24 February 1950 on a remote hill in rugged mountains east of Seoul.



Fred Fairhead and Andrew Faulkner with Andrew's nieces (from left) Carolyn Harry, Lee Wayne and Jill Marton.

This book 'Stone Cold' by Andrew Faulkner is about not only a great soldier, but a great man. Yes, he was a fighter, but flip the Opie coin and you find a man who was kind, generous, considerate and intensely loyal. He was a family man. His great-nephews and nieces remember him always giving the best Christmas presents. He was a hard man, but had a soft side. He loved animals. He always had dogs and gave prodigiously to animal charities. His dry sense of humour was at the heart of his character.

It is a book that tells the story of a warrior and his rich personality and as a minor amateur military historian. I can see how Andrew was drawn to such a rich subject in a project, that I understand has stretched across seven years. Len wanted his story told; so approached Andrew, but sadly he died after they had met only a few times. Still, Andrew says those meetings were invaluable in getting to know at least part of the man.

Publishers Allen & Unwin enthusiastically backed the project and here we are with Len's story being told at last. It is the story of the fighting in New Guinea, Balikpapan, Kapyong, Maryang San and Vietnam, i.e. Len's three wars and numerous adversaries, both in the opposing lines and within his own camp.

The book will contribute much to the history of the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Regiments.

**Fred Fairhead
Erindale
5 February 2016**

Uranium - simply put it back where it came from

Why do people resist change? There may be personal reasons but the popular ones seem to be loss of control, uncertainty, out of the comfort zone, being able to manage, increased work load, resentment in someone else's idea, unforeseen threats and just plain stubbornness. Heraclitus of Ephesus, the Greek philosopher known for his doctrine of change being central to the universe, is probably looking down, recognizing that change many years ago would have saved the Greek financial system in 2014, not without a fight but it would have been saved. Resistance to change in this context has almost destroyed the wellbeing of a nation and its people and if we bring it much closer to home there is much being contemplated for the common good in South Australia yet they are all subject to resistance and that is somewhat disappointing. Being an adopted South Australian and having had the pleasure of working and living in many other parts of Australia and the world over the years gives me the prerogative to make some fairly candid comments which may meet with some disapproval but frankly being a disciple of Heraclitus I don't really care.

We live in one of the most livable cities and States in the world and you don't really appreciate it until you have had the displeasure in some instances of living elsewhere but most importantly experiencing how others in this world have to live and provide for themselves and their families, but why is it that there is almost a self-flagellation and deprecation when we talk about our State in everything except football? We have so much going for us but we just don't have a long term view and most importantly encourage, stimulate and embrace change, not for change sake but for making things better. Is it our conservatism, insularity and isolation from the real world or that we are just fearful of change and our little comfort zone being threatened? With the State manufacturing industries in decline there are opportunities of innovation and new industries which is common sense but let's not forget and support our old industries of which we have many who are major employers and contributors. We sometimes spend an inordinate amount of money developing something new when that same money could be put into an existing industry or business making it more productive and profitable. One new industry that must be supported and where we almost have a moral responsibility is the nuclear industry where the value adding and quality chain can be totally controlled from ground to ground, making billions of dollars for this state. A proposition with enormous merit is that uranium is not sold to end-users but leased where we would have end to end control.

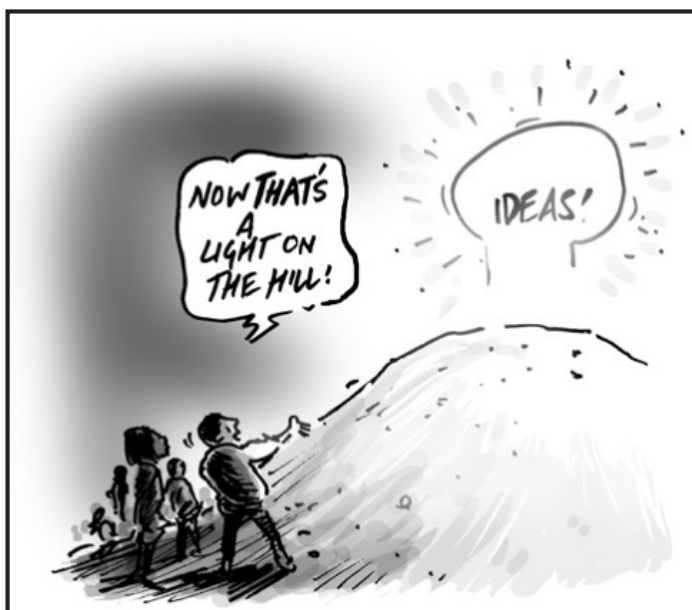
We are a huge State with a very small population and tax base and simply do not have the tax revenue through normal means to fund our essential services or build and provide important infrastructure necessary to improve our quality of comfort and life. We are already taxed almost out of existence and any further tax increases is not only bad policy and politics but a real strain on South Australians who are struggling as it is. It's not just the 4000 extra jobs that this new industry will provide but a revenue stream that will be the envy of our fellow COAG partners. The revenue stream will provide further jobs in road building, port expansion, a massive rail head and transport hub, schools, hospitals, sporting venues and further development of our parks and gardens and a music bowl. All of this is possible but we will have

the handwringers and obstructionists who think they know better resisting change for no perceivable valid reason. The storage of uranium is simply putting it back from whence it came – into the ground which colloquially is a “no brainer”.

The uranium and nuclear opportunity is just one but a very important one so it will be very interesting to see in coming months how this is to progress or is the normal conservative, fearful, change resistant

mind set going to prevail? At least the State Opposition supports the Premier and Cabinet in having the debate so maybe just maybe on a major issue within the Australian political landscape, we will have partisan support for the common good. Heraclitus would be very proud.

Michael von Berg



RSL ANZAC appeal breakfast

Friday April 15

Adelaide Convention Centre

7am - 8.45am

\$45 or \$400 for a table of 10 including

ANZAC appeal pins for all guests

Guests include Adelaide Lord Mayor Martin Haese, RSL President Tim Hanna and Robert “Dogs” Kearney.

Hot breakfast and entertainment

Tickets: ANZAC House, Torrens Parade Ground

8100 7300 or fax 8232 0377

communications@rslsa.org.au

FROM THE BATTALIONS

1 RAR

At Dich commemoration was well attended although unfortunately there weren't too many from the Big Blue 1. One of the reason I think is that there are not many in this state from 1 RAR and I don't have contact details for most ex-Bn members.

I ask that you would be kind enough to contact me to provide me with your contact info so I can then ensure you know what is happening among your ex-1 RAR mates. I tried to get this info from those at the ANZAC march last year but unfortunately the list was left at the Lion after the March.

I had the honour of giving the memorial address as the representative of 1 RAR and spoke of what a soldier's memory was of that particular "battle" (Operation Goodwood and Goodwood 2 as we knew it at the time). By the number of people who approached me afterwards with positive feedback, I was pleased I kept the address at the soldier level rather than talk numbers and tactics as often is the case.

Now back to our small group of unsung heroes. For some time there has been a small band of ex-1 RAR diggers who have for many years been meeting socially monthly for dinner. The group gets together on the first Friday of the month, presently at the Britannia. It would be great if more of us (yes, I include myself) join this happy bunch and strengthen our bonds. We should learn from the likes of **Quinny, Frenchy, Knighty**, etc. who kept the flag flying.

So, if you feel like a meal occasionally with some old mates, contact me for details and let's reconnect. There are no formal meetings, just the occasional social activity and perhaps we can from time to time be of use, as a group, at the RAR Association Clubrooms.



"Gino" dressed for Hat Dich, December 1968 during Operation Goodwood.

- John Genovese

genovese@bigpond.net.au

(08) 8265 0524 - 0403 010 180

WARNING NOTICE

REGIMENTAL DINNER

The Royal Australian Regiment SA is proposed by Saturday June 25 at Regimental HQ - Linden Park
Details yet to be finalised.

Inquiries: Club Manager Greg Dwiar
0412 644 749 or when you see him at the club. Members advised via email.

3 RAR

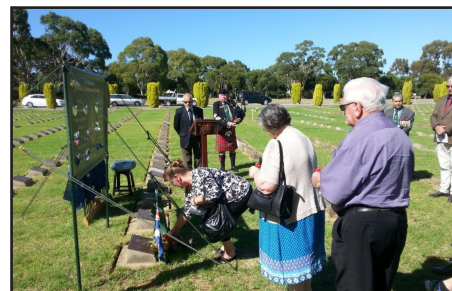


Our association has been busy this year and we look forward to a busy year ahead.

We conducted our AGM on 4 March 2016 and the Committee was re-elected with only one change with Keith Wells taking over Membership from David White who had served in that position almost from our formation.

We continue to conduct fundraising sausage sizzles at Bunnings Hardware with not only Kent Town and Windsor gardens being used but now Noarlunga being used. A lot of effort by a few people especially Neville and Margaret Cooper.

We only recently; 20 March 2016; conducted a commemorative service for 2LT David Paterson on the 45th Anniversary of his death in South Vietnam. The service at Centennial Park was well attended and a lunch at the Tonsley Hotel followed.



Jill Evans; niece of David Paterson; places a poppy tribute at David's grave.

Those attending the lunch at the Tonsley Hotel after David's service.



In May we will be conducting simple grave side gatherings to commemorate the deaths of Sergeant Peter Lewis (KIA 13 May 1968) and Privates Alan Cooper and William Thomas (KIA 26 May 1968).

On 24 April we will be conducting our annual Kapyong Day Commemorative Service and Lunch at the RAR Association SA clubrooms to mark the 65th Anniversary of the battle. Please see separate article. Over the ANZAC Day weekend A Company of the 2nd Tour SVN will be conducting a reunion at Mildura and C Company of the same Tour a reunion based at Hahndorf with the latter joining us for the ANZAC Day Commemorative March.

Our ANZAC Day Reunion will be the Lord Melbourne Hotel in Melbourne Street North Adelaide although no doubt some members will drop into the Lion Hotel.

Continued page 18

FROM THE BATTALIONS

3 RAR continued from page 17

Over the weekend June 3-5 we will be conducting a Long Kahn Reunion based at the RAR Association SA clubrooms with the Meet and Greet on the Friday evening, commemorative service on the Saturday and a lunch at a venue to be decided on the Sunday. The Battle of Long Kahn (7 June 1971) was the largest and most deadly contact the Battalion had on its second tour of SVN. We will be inviting the supporting arms and services to the Reunion.

This year we have stepped up our social side of the association and plan to have a lunch Every month; alternating between the Lord Melbourne Hotel and the Avoca Hotel. We also plan to have a quiz night every half year.

In the last half of the year we will be having a commemorative service at the RAR Association SA clubrooms on Friday 7 October to mark the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Maryang San and then our annual Battalion Birthday and Christmas Party on November 20 (the nearest Sunday to the 23rd).

Adrian Craig
3 RAR SA

4 RAR

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 29th November 2015.

Some 30 to 40 members attended and carried out the usual elections of Office Bearers. Secretary Ron Blood and Treasurer Grant Carmody indicated that this will be their last term in those positions. We have been forewarned we need to search far and wide to obtain their replacements.

Members voted unanimously to bestow Life Membership to three members who have given outstanding service to the Association. **Brian Kotz** OAM served as Vice President, Committee Member for 10 years and was a vital part of the Reunion Committee 2014. **Ron Blood** served as Secretary and Committee Member for 10 Years and **Grant Carmody** as Treasurer for 10 years. Without these fine members the association would not have operated as efficiently as it did.

We as an Association are looking forward to inviting more members to participate so we can carry on the good work that has been done previously.

Contact details are: Rod Harris President 0448 726 088 for any Ex 4 RAR, 4 RARNZ, 2/4 RAR, 4 RAR (Cdo) Please feel free to contact the above phone number.

DUTY FIRST

Rod Harris
President 4 RAR Association

Ceremonial dates for the rest of the year

24 April: 3 RAR SA Kapyong. Venue Linden Park.

25 April: ANZAC Day various.

4 June: 3 RAR SA Long Khanh. Venue Linden Park.

6 August: 7 RAR SA. Suoi Chau Pha. To be advised.

18 Aug: RAR Assoc. SA Long Tan. To be advised.

7 Oct. 3: RAR Maryang San. Venue Linden Park.

5/7 RARA



5/7 RAR association members attending the AGM with (right) Queensland representative John Smith, Patron Brigadier Chris Appleton and Shaun Ryan.

On Saturday 28 November 2015 the 5/7 RAR Association held its AGM at the City of Sydney RSL. It was well attended by more than 20 members, including the 5/7 RAR Association President **Steve Brumby** and Association Patron Brigadier **Chris Appleton**.

5/7 RAR was formed from 5 RAR and 7 RAR in 1973 and was on the order of battle of the Australian Army until delinking in 2006.

Many great officers, NCOs and soldiers served in 5/7 RAR over the 33-year period and it's great to see those who have served establish a 5/7 RAR Association which has a progressive and keen committee, supported by a new website, a new range of merchandising gear and, at last, a count some 200 members.

After the AGM members were treated to a dinner and refreshments, courtesy of the Association. Membership is open to all ex-members for \$15 a year. The new 5/7 RAR Association website is www.57rar.com

The RARA is expecting all 5/7 RAR ex-members out for the Anzac Day March marching under their own Association banner.

Chris Shannon
State 5/7 RAR Representative

Committee members are:

President	Steve Brumby
Vice President	Matthew Travis
Secretary	Chris Shannon
Assistant Secretary	Greg Bond
Treasurer	Matthew Shea
Assistant Treasurer	Mark Wicks
QLD Representative	John Smith
NSW Representative	James Thorpe
ACT Representative	Greg Bond
Victorian Representative	Vacant
Tasmanian Representative	Ric Rees
SA Representative	Chris Shannon
NT Representative	TBC
WA Representative	Matthew Shea
Membership officer	Matthew Travis

FROM THE BATTALIONS

9 RAR SA



The year has started relatively quietly for some and very busily for a few.

In the first quarter we conducted our annual commemorative services in a simplified form with a view to reducing the stress these occasions cause to the families of our war dead and on the veterans. We call them "grave side gatherings".

During January, February and March we conducted grave side gatherings at Centennial Park for:

Sergeant Jeff Duroux on January 5.

Corporal Alan Graham on January 7.

Sergeant John Cock and Corporal Harry Musicka on January 19.

Lance Corporal Peter Chant on February 14.

Private Grantley Scales on March 5.



After the grave side gathering of 19 Jan 2016. L to R. Acting President Michael Mummery OAM, Keith Wright, Mrs Ceremonial Sandra Craig and Vice President Gene Costa with Adrian Craig kneeling.

Murray Bridge for Private Reg Phillips on 18 January. Lunch followed at the Bridgeport Hote.



After the graveside gathering of 18 January with Reg's Mother in the wheelchair, Reg's youngest sister behind her left shoulder and older sister in white dress to her left and bobbing down is Reg's niece Karina.

Ardrossan for Private Bruce Plane on 20 January. Lunch followed at the Ardrossan RSL put on by the Ladies Auxiliary as usual.



After the grave side gathering of 20 January with (from left) Acting President Michael Mummery OAM, Bob Plummer's grandson Aaron, Bob Plummer, Jim Fisher and President of Ardrossan RSL Kevin Kavanagh, ex 3 RAR, who recited The Ode.



After the grave side gathering of 20 January with L to R Helen and Ian Herron, Margaret and Les Maynard and Mrs Ceremonial Sandra Craig. Ian and Bruce did their recruit training, corps training, Battle Wing training together and moved to SVN together and after training in the 1st Australian Reinforcement Unit were posted to D Coy 9 RAR together where Bruce went to 10 Platoon and was killed on his first day on operations and Ian went to 12 Platoon.

Of particular concern within 9 RAR SA and some members of the RAR Association SA has been the ill health of our President David Stacey (pictured). David had a very serious cancer of the kidney incident on New Year's Eve and at one stage was very near to death. He has advised me he is recovering and will still need further treatment but in the week before Easter rode his bike with his bike riding group from Strathalbyn to Milang about 20 km. A truly great story. David expresses his thanks all those who have supported him through this crisis.



**Adrian Craig
9 RAR SA**

Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2015-2016

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

Elected Positions

President	Michael von Berg MC mvb@michaelvonberg.com	0411 870 055
Vice President	Rod Graham rodg2@bigpond.com.au	0427 977 145
Secretary	Jim Stopford jbstop@bigpond.com	0400 191 801
Treasurer	Mike Bevan	0416 106 578
Webmaster	mikeb3@netspace.net.au	
Membership	Carol Van Der Peet 3RARSA@gmail.com	0415 242 084

Appointed Committee Positions

Manager - Club	Greg Dwiar gregdwiar@gmail.com	0412 644 749
Manager - Ceremonial	Adrian Craig as.craig9rar@bigpond.com	8263 4784
Welfare Officer	Vacant	

Trojan's Trek

Director	Moose Dunlop OAM moose@trojanstrek.com	0408 088 886
Schools Military History Officer	Ken Duthie	0418 806 172

Voluntary Positions

Manager - Bar	Neil Nicholls neilnicholls1946@gmail.com	0488 050 810 8369 1957
Editor - Infantryman	Penelope Forster penelopeforster01@gmail.com	8367 9905

Battalion Representatives

1 RAR John Genovese	genovese@bigpond.net.au	8265 0524
2 RAR Malcolm Allen	mal@aladdco.com.au	0451 374 133
2/4 RAR Kim Porter	yrtnafni51@gmail.com	0417 468186
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4 RAR Rod Harris	sirrah@lm.net.au	0448 726 088
5 RAR Mos Hancock	moswhan@bigpond.net.au	8556 2732
5/7 RAR Chris Shannon	thinktank2002@hotmail.com	0414 797 250
6 RAR	Vacant	
7 RAR Robert Whinnen	rlwhinnen@bigpon.com.au	0413 198 558
8 RAR Ted Forward	adrienne.ted.forward@bigpond.com	82351 625
9 RAR Adrian Craig	as.craig9rar@bigpond.com	8263 4784

RAR (SA) RSL Sub-Branch

President	Rod Graham	0427 977 145
Secretary	Greg Dwiar	0412 644 749
Treasurer	Steven Roberts	0408 108 643

Headquarters and Clubroom

13 Beatty Street, Linden Park, SA 5065

Phone: (08) 8379 5771

Website: www.rarasa.org.au

Email: rar01@internode.on.net

RAR ACTIVITIES APRIL -- AUGUST 2016

DATES	MEAL	BAR
APRIL		
1 st	Light Meal	Adrian C.
8 th	Ladies Night 3 Course Dinner	Bob W.
15 th	Light Meal	Spike.
22 nd	Light Meal	Kara.
24 th	KAPYONG DAY 3RAR	TBA
25 th	ANZAC DAY	CLOSED
29 th	Chef's Choice 2 course menu	Neil N.
MAY		
6 th	Light Meal	Wheels.
13 th	Ladies Night 3 Course Dinner	Bob W.
20 th	Light Meal	Adrian C.
27 th	Chef's Choice 2 course menu	Spike.
JUNE		
3 rd	Light Meal	Kara.
4 th	LONG KHANH 3RAR	TBA
10 th	Ladies Night 3 Course Dinner	Bob W.
17 th	Light Meal	Neil N.
24 th	Chef's Choice 2 course menu	Wheels.
JULY		
1 st	Light Meal	Adrian C.
8 th	Ladies Night 3 Course Dinner	Bob W.
15 th	Light Meal	Spike.
22 nd	Light Meal	Kara.
29 th	Chef's Choice 2 course menu	Neil N.
AUGUST		
5 th	Light Meal	Wheels.
6 th	SUOI CHAU PA 3RAR	TBA
12 th	Ladies Night 3 Course Dinner	Bob W.
18 th	LONG TAN DAY	TBA
19 th	Light Meal	Adrian C.
26 th	Chef's Choice 2 course menu	Spike.

Infantryman contributions

All articles and photos for *Infantryman* are to be submitted to President Michael von Berg and Editor Penelope Forster.

Articles are to be submitted in Word in Arial in 10pt on 12pt.

Photos are to be submitted as jpgs separately - **not included within the text.**

Phone numbers must be written 1234 5678 (four numbers, a gap, and four numbers) for landlines and 1234 567 890 (four numbers, a gap, three numbers and a gap, three numbers) .

All emails, both articles and photos, must show in the subject line with the word "Infantryman" and then another word or two. Just numbers on emailed photos make it very difficult to sort out which articles they should be matched up with.

When more than one photo is submitted for the same article, type: Infantryman parade 1, Infantryman parade 2, etc.

Please include a phone number on emails as a second source of communication when verification is needed urgently about a story or photo. All photos must have captions.

The next issue will be the August one. The deadline for submission of articles and photos: Monday July 4 - if not before.

Please remember to notify all change of addresses, telephone numbers and email address to the Membership Officer Carol Van Der Peet 3RARSA@gmail.com

Thanks to all contributors to this issue. Special thanks to Lynn Graham for her expertise in proofing and Greg Dwiar for the many articles and photos submitted, for attention to detail and proofing.

Thank you - Editor Penelope Forster